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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/879,675	06/12/2001	John A. Peebles	8864.00	5000

7590

04/22/2003

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EXAMINER

FUREMAN, JARED

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 04/22/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/879,675

Applicant(s)

PEEBLES ET AL.

Examiner

Jared J. Fureman

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,6-10 and 14-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5 and 11-13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Receipt is acknowledged of the IDS filed on 9/24/2001, which has been entered in the file. Claims 1-19 are pending.

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: --SELF-SERVICE TERMINALHAVING A RECONFIGURABLE MEDIA ENTRY SLOT--.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 16 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 16, line 3: "the" should be replaced with --a--, in order to avoid a lack of proper antecedent basis for "the type". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 2, 6, 8-10, 14, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Holter (US 3,760,162).

Re claims 1, 2, 6, 8-10, and 14: Holter teaches a self-service terminal (figure 1) comprising: means (entrance 14) defining a media entry slot; shutter means (16) movable into at least partly overlapping relationship with the slot (figure 1 shows the shutter 16 at least partly overlapping the slot 14); and controller means (means, not shown, for lifting the shutter 16 upon detection of a card 10 containing appropriately located markings 15) for moving the shutter means relative to the slot to define an entry aperture (detection of appropriately located markings 15 on card 10 causes the shutter 16 to be lifted, and an aperture in the shutter 16 lines up with the entrance 14, thus defining an entry aperture); transaction processing means (including, at least, comparison unit 39) for controlling the flow of transactions; media sensors (photoelectric detecting arrangement 17) disposed in the slot; wherein the number of shutters comprises a single shutter (16) (see figures 1, 2, column 2 lines 44-57, column 2 line 65 - column 3 line 12, and column 4 lines 29-68).

Re claim 16: The teachings of Holter have been discussed above. Holter also teaches a method of accepting media (a card 10) entered into a self-service terminal (figure 1), the method comprising the steps of: determining a type of media to be entered (for example, during design/construction of the terminal the type of card to be entered is determined); determining a preferred aperture size for entry of the determined media type (for example, during design/construction of the terminal the aperture size is determined relative to the determined card size); adjusting the size of an aperture provided on a fascia of the self-service terminal to correspond with the preferred aperture size (for example, during design/construction of the terminal the

aperture size is created to correspond to the preferred size relative to the card size); and accepting media entered into the aperture (for example, during testing or use of the terminal) (see figures 1, 2, column 2 lines 44-57, column 2 line 65 - column 3 line 12, and column 4 lines 29-68).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 7, 15, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holter in view of Greene et al (US 6,182,893 B1).

The teachings of Holter have been discussed above.

Holter fails to specifically teach the self-service terminal further comprising indicator means/a number of indicators located adjacent the slot for informing a user of the orientation of media to be deposited; a step of indicating to a user an expected orientation of the media to be entered, prior to media entry.

Greene et al teaches a self-service terminal (100) comprising: means defining a media entry slot (220), and indicator means/a number of indicators (indicia 210, the number of indicators being one) located adjacent the slot for informing a user of the orientation of media (a card) to be deposited in the slot; a step of indicating to a user (via the indicia 210) an expected orientation of the media to be entered, prior to media entry (see figures 1, 2, and column 3 lines 22-33).

In view of Greene et al's teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include, with the self-service terminal as taught by Holter, indicator means/a number of indicators located adjacent the slot for informing a user of the orientation of media to be deposited; a step of indicating to a user an expected orientation of the media to be entered, prior to media entry, in order to help illustrate to consumers how to operate the card reader (see column 3 lines 31-33, of Greene et al).

8. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holter in view of Hurd et al (US 5,401,013).

The teachings of Holter have been discussed above.

Holter fails to specifically teach the step of moving a shutter into at least partly overlapping relationship with a media entry slot provided on the self-service terminal to adjust the size of the aperture.

Hurd et al teaches a method of accepting media (16) entered into a self-service terminal (10), the method comprising the steps of: determining a type of media to be entered; determining a preferred aperture size for entry of the determined media type; adjusting the size of an aperture (34) provided in the self-service terminal to correspond with the preferred aperture size (the size of the feed gap 34 should be essentially equal to the thickness 38 of the media); accepting media entered into the aperture; moving a shutter (separator blocks 13) into at least partly overlapping relationship with a media entry slot provided on the self-service terminal to adjust the size of the aperture (see

figures 2, 4-6, column 5 lines 39-59, column 6 lines 19-59, column 7 line 44 - column 8 line 22, column 8 lines 53-62).

In view of Hurd et al's teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include, with the method as taught by Holter, the step of moving a shutter into at least partly overlapping relationship with a media entry slot provided on the self-service terminal to adjust the size of the aperture, in order to provide a quick and accurate adjustment of the aperture (see column 8 lines 53-56 of Hurd et al), thereby accommodating different sized media.

9. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holter as modified by Hurd et al as applied to claim 17 above, and further in view of Greene et al.

The teachings of Holter as modified by Hurd et al have been discussed above.

Holter as modified by Hurd et al fails to specifically teach a step of indicating to a user an expected orientation of the media to be entered, prior to media entry.

The teachings of Greene et al have been discussed above.

In view of Greene et al's teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include, with the method as taught by Holter as modified by Hurd et al, indicator means/a number of indicators located adjacent the slot for informing a user of the orientation of media to be deposited; a step of indicating to a user an expected orientation of the media to be entered, prior to media entry, in order to help illustrate to consumers how to operate the card reader (see column 3 lines 31-33, of Greene et al).

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 3-5 and 11-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

11. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or fairly suggest: a self-service terminal comprising control means for moving a plurality of movable shutters into at least partly overlapping relationship with a media entry slot to define an entry aperture; wherein one shutter is movable vertically relative to the slot and another shutter is movable horizontally relative to the slot; wherein the shutter means comprises paired opposed shutters, in combination with the other claimed limitations as set forth in the claims.

While Swinton et al (US 6,398,108 B1) teaches a self-service terminal (10) including a plurality of shutters (20A and 20B), the plurality of shutters are provided at a dispenser slot (20), not a media entry slot (12). Thus, without the benefit of applicant's teachings, there is no motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the plurality of shutters provided at a dispenser slot, as taught by Swinton et al, with the self-service terminal as taught by Holter having a single shutter provided at a media entry slot, in a manner so as to create the claimed invention.

Furthermore, while providing a plurality of shutters as compared to a single shutter may seem to be a duplication of elements, without the benefit of applicant's teachings, there is no motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

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invention to utilize a plurality of shutters to define a media entry aperture, since the prior art of record functions adequately for the intended operation using only a single shutter (there is no teaching of a need for a plurality of shutters, or a benefit obtained by the use of a plurality of shutters).

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. May (US 5,929,426), Gardner (US 5,929,413), Gardner (US 5,861,614), Nicoll et al (US 5,828,043), Kenneth et al (US 5,796,083), May (US 5,760,380), May (US 5,721,420), Oguchi (US 5,646,392), Toma (US 5,146,070), Kimura et al (US 4,883,183), Sugimoto et al (US 4,803,349), Sayer (US 4,092,934), and Barker et al (US 3,779,542) all teach self-service terminals having a shutter in movable relationship with a media entry slot to define an entry aperture. Recktenwald et al (US 6,439,345 B1) teaches displaying an indicator for informing a user of the orientation of a credit card (see column 15 lines 42-48). Arp et al (US 4,578,569), Lees (US 4,301,361), and Tadahiko (JP 11-154251 A) all teach self-service terminals and/or card readers having means for accepting differently sized media/cards. Matsumoto (US 5,710,637) suggests adjusting the size of an opening for a scanner device in consonance with the size of a document to be processed (see column 2 lines 39-43). Hass et al (US 6,315,283 B1) teaches adjusting a gate (171) on the outlet of a card hopper, in order to change the thickness of the outlet opening to permit the use of different thickness cards. (JP 2001-155116 A) teaches a card issue device having a shutter (16) inside a card entrance and exit (15), and another shutter (18) provided in the card conveyance path.

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Swinton et al (US 6,398,108 B1) teaches a self-service terminal (10) including a plurality of shutters (20A and 20B) provided at a dispenser slot (20).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jared J. Fureman whose telephone number is (703) 305-0424. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am - 4:30 PM M-T, and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (703) 305-3503. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Jared J. Fureman
Jared J. Fureman
April 17, 2003